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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: ~~LEE~~ NIE et al.
Serial No.: 10/669,775
Filed: September 24, 2003
Entitled: Vacuum Pumping System

Group Art Unit: 3746
Examiner: n/a
Atty. Dkt.: M03B179

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence and every writing referred to herein as being enclosed is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on September 14, 2004.
(Date)

Betty Lee
Printed name of person signing this certificate

Betty Lee
Signature of person mailing

Dear Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The Examiner's attention is directed to the documents identified on the attached Forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B, "Information Disclosure Statement." A copy of each non-US patent document is enclosed.

Please consider all the listed documents and list them on the cover sheet of any patents to issue from the subject application.

The Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith is being filed within three months of the filing date of the application or within three months of the date of entry of the National Phase of an international application or before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(b), no additional fee is due. As a precaution, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 02-2865 any fee required by this submission.

Very truly yours,

Date: Sept 14, 2004

The BOC Group, Inc.
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Attachments
Forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B
Cited References

ILZ:bjl

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

PTO/SB/08A (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Application Number | 10/669,775 |
| Filing Date | September 24, 2003 |
| First Named Inventor | MENNIE et al. |
| Art Unit | 3746 |
| Examiner Name | |
| Attorney Docket Number | M03B179 |

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| Sheet | 1 | of | 2 |
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U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear | T ⁶ |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|---|----------------|
| | | Country Code ³ *Number ⁴ *Kind Code ⁵ (if known) | | | | |
| | 2 | JP 2000-81857 | 03-22-2002 | Ulvac Kuraio KK | | |
| | 3 | JP 10-259793 | 09-29-1998 | Osaka Shinku... | | |
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**Examiner
Signature**

Date
Considered

¹EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ²Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ³See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ⁴Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁵For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁶Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁷Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO

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| Examiner Name | |
| Attorney Docket Number | M03B179 |

Sheet 2

of

2

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. | T ² |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---|----------------|
| | 4 | T. MITSUSHINA, F. SHINJI, M. HIDETOSHI; Abstract of JP 2000-81857 A, dated March 22, 2002 entitled Rear Gas Recovering Method and Device Therefor; WPI/Derwent | |
| | 5 | I. MASASHI, S. MITSURU, O. MASATOMO; Abstract of JP 10-259793, dated September 29, 1998 entitled Molecular Pump; WPI/Derwent | |
| | 6 | United Kingdom Patent Office Search Report Application No.: GB0407081.9; Date of search: August 5, 2004 | |
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